

26th October, 5.

Rev. T. T. Shields,
Douglas Apartments,
Toronto.

Dear Sir,

I attended Jarvis Street Church last Sunday night. It did not help ~~me~~ very much nor do I think it tended to strengthen the cause of Christianity to hear you class the man who proposed to exhibit the Johnson Fight Pictures in Toronto as "parasites". One of these men, Richard Greer, I am proud to call a warm friend of mine. He is at times an honoured guest in our house. He is, as you are doubtless aware, the Crown Attorney for the County of York, and his reputation, both as a lawyer and a practitioner, is known by all the members of the Bench and Bar to be beyond reproach.

There are few men whose position affords as many opportunities for lending a helping hand to those in trouble than the Crown Attorney of the County of York and there are few men in the community who, to my mind, do more effective Christian work than the same gentleman, whom you last Sunday evening called a "parasite". There are few men practising law in Toronto to-day who try harder and succeed more effectively in carrying out the great motto "Do unto others" as Mr. R. H. Greer.

I have know Mr. Greer from his boyhood. have known him in sport and in private life. We have practised law side by side for the

past ten years and up to last Sunday evening I never heard anyone say that Dick Greer, as we call him, ever did anything unfair or dishonourable. It is possible that he and his associates did make a mistake in trying to bring on the Johnson Fight Pictures but if you and I had seen them we probably would have agreed on this that the pictures were so dreadfully dull and uninteresting that we would both have felt that we had not got our money's worth and that the Prize Fight itself was not nearly so brutal as an ordinary Rugby game. However, this is not the point because a man or set of men did something which you do not agree with you have used your position in the pulpit to attack the private character of them all. Perhaps you meant that because Mr. Greer earned his living by practising law he was a parasite. If this was the meaning then I suppose D. E. Thomson, K.C. Charles K. Holman K.C. Gideon Grant and some of the rest of us are in the same class.

If you had heard what a certain recently returned distinguished officer, who is now again at the Front said concerning the work Mr. Greer and his associates have done and what it meant to the remaining members of the First Contingent who at times last year thought they had been forgotten by their own people you would have spoken more kindly and truthfully of my friend.

During the past three years it has been my business to try and collect the debts from at least 100 clergymen, many of them we did not succeed in collecting, but because I know that 100 clergymen will not pay their debts would it be honest or fair for me to class all clergymen as dishonest? I have not reached that stage yet, although sometimes when I hear a statement like the one you made last Sunday night I have to ask myself whether the average clergyman ~~could~~ possibly be fair.

Yours truly,



The **Margaret Eaton School Digital Collection** is a not-for-profit resource created in 2014-2015 to assist scholars, researchers, educators and students to discover the Margaret Eaton School archives housed in the Peter Turkstra Library at Redeemer University College. Copyright of the digital images is the property of Redeemer University College, Ancaster, Canada and the images may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email digital images for individual non-commercial use. To learn more about this project or to search the digital collection, go to <http://libguides.redeemer.ca/mes>